Criteria for establishment of duty-free shops

88. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices are not the criteria to decide about duty-free shops at International Airports; and

(b) if so, what are the different criteria on which this decision is based and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Prices of the commodities sold at the duty free shops are not the criteria to decide about the allotment of duty free shops at International Airports but their minimum reserve licence fee quoted by the pre-qualified bidders in such tenders. For pre-qualification purposes, some of the criteria are the gross turnover of parties, experience in running such duty free shops, financial soundness etc.

Office for Minister of State at Jammu

89. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India has agreed to set up an office for Minister of State for Civil Aviation at Jammu; and

(b) if so, under what provision of Law and Rules such an office with the staff car, a driver, office Assistant and telephone with STD facilities can be opened and maintained at public cost?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Delay in commissioning of second runway at Calcutta Airport

90. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Airport is not being recognised as international airport because the newly constructed second runway could not be inaugurated as a place of worship comes in the way;

(b) whether people attending the prayers there have an

unhindered access to the runway endangering the lives of passengers; and

(c) if so, whether Government will think of removing or relocating this place of worship?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No new second runway has been constructed at Calcutta Airport, recently.

(b) Persons attending the prayer have no access to any of the two runways. Further, the persons attending the prayer are subjected to security check, before proceeding to the prayer place, which is about 680 meters away from second runway and movement of these persons is also monitored by Airport Security officials.

(c) The re-location of the place of worship outside the operational area has already been taken up with the State Government.

Revamping of fleet and services of IA

91. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revamp of fleet and services of Indian Airlines is in the offing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this exercise is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A Techno Economic evaluation study to replace the ageing fleet of B-737 and A-300 aircraft in Indian Airlines is currently underway. On completion of the study, necessary action will be taken according to the prescribed procedure. No time frame, however, can be fixed at this stage.

Development of Ajmer Airport

92. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has been advised by its own officers that Ajmer should be developed as an Airport; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that pilgrims are